

Have you had a chance to follow the recent coin auctions? They have proven that top tier coins still are bringing strong, strong prices AND record prices. I have noticed many well-to-do folks who are buying ultra-rarities as investments and as a hedge against the volatility of other more common investments. I know of more than a few dealers who have been pooling their funds to buy important and very expensive rarities for resale. I know this has happened for decades, but the frequency has only increased by many times. I also know of investment groups who are pooling funds for the sole purpose of buying ultra-rarities. It still amazes me how many coins are breaking the \$1 million price barrier.

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*Excerpt from Email of 8/19/12 from  
Mike Spurlock to ZPN.*



Subj: Fwd: Fw: B. G. Johnson Records  
Date: 11/22/2011 12:57:58 P.M. Central Standard Time  
From:  
To:  
CC:

Spurlock

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 11/21/2011 8:33:48 P.M. Central Standard Time  
Subj: Fw: B. G. Johnson Records

Hi, Tett--

Are Eric's B. G. Johnson records at his library? He has such a massive volume of records there and in his basement!

I would love to be able to come up during the week of Monday, December 5, if it can be arranged. Since I don't have a boss (except for Lindsey, my wife!), my schedule is very flexible.

I am sick today....not physically. I ordered a complete set of St. Louis Coin (B. G. Johnson) FPL's from Karl Moulton. I heard back this afternoon that he had sold it the day before.....to Eric Newman!!!!!!! I would like to try to get access to these as well. They will be very important to what I am trying to accomplish with the Green and Brand collections. Karl Moulton told me tonight that he had just mailed them to Eric Today.

The numismatic day was not a total waste. I acquired a group of the first 76 Stack's FPL's (1939 to 1970). That should provide some interesting research. Karl Moulton has an original Alvord post-sale catalog, with PRL's for \$3,900!!!!!!!! YIKES!!!! I would pay that if it were annotated. I am still sick that I was the underbidder on Del Bland's annotated original..... The main problem with annotated Chapman catalogs (and others of that time era) is that most of the coins were bought by dealers for customers or for stock. Unless you had access to the dealer records, the pedigree tracing process becomes a lot of conjecture. I have a few dealer bid books, but not enough to help much in my research.

I also found some other nice catalogs (mostly Elder catalogs) that rate high for half cent content (of course, owning the actual HALF CENTS if much more fun!).

TTYS,

Mike

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Date:** Thu, 17 Nov 2011 15:32:09 -0500 (EST)

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Re: B. G. Johnson Records

In August I promised you a response to this. I have discussed it with Eric. He does not have the record in that form. However, he does have Johnson's copy of his invoices, which would, of course, indicate the purchaser. If you would like to sift through these for information he would be glad to make them available to you. Tett



Spurlock

Subj: **Re: Breen Color Plates**  
Date: 1/30/2012 2:31:46 P.M. Central Standard Time  
From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]  
CC: [REDACTED]

Mike: Thanks for the great information. And congratulations on your acquisitions. I will ask Eric if he would like to see the Green inventory. Tett

Eric: Would you like to see the Col. Green inventory. Mike Spurlock has acquired some great old numismatic literature and some great information as well. Tett

In a message dated 1/30/2012 2:04:44 P.M. Central Standard Time, [REDACTED] writes:

Hi, Tett--

I hope you and your sweet Marilyn are doing well!

I greatly appreciate you sending the detail regarding the owners of the color plates in the Breen reference. I had most of them figured out, but this filled in the remaining gaps.

I am still having great fun with my research. I have discovered the "new" earliest known auction dates for both varieties of 1796. The most important was regarding the No Pole. William H. Strobridge cataloged the collection of Dr. Charles Clay that sold on December 5, 6 and 7 of 1871. This sale included the first reference to a 1796 C1, an uncirculated one at that. Unfortunately for Mr. Strobridge, the 1796 No Pole had not been identified yet. He described it as having an "imperfection in the planchet or an injury across the plate." It sold for the princely sum of \$9.00. I have attached a scan of the page with the auction lot and the cover page for the auction.

Dr. Charles Clay is barely known today, but he had a FABULOUS collection with all types of Colonial, U.S., Patterns, Medals, Tokens, Encased Postage and some specialized foreign pieces. One of his specialties was coinage from the Isle of Man. I don't remember a whole lot of modern collectors of this vein.

His Colonials were fantastic. He had 5 N. E. Shillings, 2 N. E. Sixpence, 3 Threepence and 2 Pennies. He also had an astounding 5 New York pieces. Not a lot of modern collectors can claim that! Most collectors have never seen N. E. pieces (especially Threepence and Pennies) or New York pieces such as the Excelsior pieces. Dr. Clay owned more N. E. Shillings than Heritage has sold in their entire history. They have NEVER handled a N.E. Threepence or Pennie.



His copper was top of the line, including uncirculated, Condition-Census early cents and half cents. Dr. Clay's "monotonous series issued by the Mint" were not even included in the sale. Wouldn't you like to have had the annual proof sets from the 1840's through 1870 to which he subscribed???

This is one of the things I like about research...unearthing characters from the past and learning their story. Oh, and one other amazing fact about Dr. Clay...he lived IN Manchester, England when he put together his collection!!! QUITE AMAZING!!!

The recent Kolbe/Fanning numismatic literature auction was very interesting. They now offer live auction coverage and bidding for their annual New York sales. I bid on the actual black & white photographs that Jack Collins took for the Breen "Big Red Book". I had some higher priority items on which I wanted to bid, so I let it go when it reached near \$5,000. It went to Dan Hamelberg. Dan is a very, very serious literature collector who has a multi-million dollar library. Dan is very willing to share information from his holdings and has agreed to furnish me the provenance information written on the back of most of the photos. I think I have most of the information already, but I prefer being sure and accurate.

I was successful in the auction picking up the following lots:

\* S. H. Chapman plated catalog John P. Lyman 11/07/1913. He had a gorgeous, lustrous AU50 1794 C1a (now Rod Widok's), an MS 1795 C1, a really nice MS 1795 C6a and some other nice examples.

\* New York Stamp & Coin plated catalog Robert Coulton Davis 01/20/1890. 1796 No Pole (VG), **YOUR** UNC 1808 C2, and some other nice examples. I do not know if you had this pedigree link.

\* W. H. Strobridge Seavey Descriptive Catalog 1873. This is the "Great Sale that Wasn't". George Seavey formed a MONSTER collection. The sale was scheduled and announced (and announced again). Seems that one Lorin G. Parmelee waved enough cash at Mr. Strobridge to talk him into alienating the ENTIRE numismatic world of that time. So much was the wrath, that he issued this catalog to the public. It is a VERY rare catalog and rated as A+ for content. The catalog is exceedingly rare. **YOUR** CC#1 AU55 1794 C3a, UNC 1795 C2a, **YOUR** CC#1 1802 C2, UNC 1811 C1. E. W. Ropes later bought most of the important coins. I did not know if you had this pedigree link. I have some other high CC coins that I need the plates to make sure they are the ones that I think them to be.



Oh...and I saved the most important matter until last. I was the buyer of the signed and notarized complete inventory of Col. E. H. R. Greens numismatic inventory! I was thrilled to pick up this most important jewel! I do not know how widely I am going to publicize my ownership yet. You are only the third copper friend who knows, the other two being Jeff Noonan and Russ Butcher. I would love to travel to St. Louis and let Eric scan through it. He told me when I was there that he was not shown an inventory when he was purchasing items from the Bank trustees.

I know Eric can only stay focused for a couple of hours at most, but I thought he might like to see it even for a short time as that. What is your opinion? I thought you would be interested as well. Please let me know...

This jewel showed how unbelievable the Colonel's collection REALLY was. I plan to write a number of articles regarding his collection, and have even considered a short book.

I will talk to you soon.

Mike

Subj: **Johnson 1941 invoice**  
Date: 6/12/2012 2:58:46 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time  
From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]

Dear Gerry:

The next opportunity you have to go into my numismatic archives at my home I would like for you to look at the Johnson 1941 invoices and see if there is one or more to Dr Judd of Omaha to see if he was sold any US quarter dollars dated 1823 or 1825 or both. If you find any please send me a copy. If you do not find them please try 1942 and let me know the result. I forgot Judd's first name. . Eric



Mike  
Please send this to Spurlock  
by ordinary mail

I found these references to the <sup>half cent</sup> invoices of B.G.  
Johnson and hope you do not have them.  
Photocopies for them are enclosed (for Mike)  
as he did not see this period of invoices.

T. C. Branets; Celina Coin Co., Celina, Ohio

Apr. 17, 1944 (Red) Green Estate, as shown. Half Cent  
Johnson owned half cents marked after  
Green Estate items as  
"End of Red Coins"

May 11, 1944 Green Estate (Red)  
three half cents on p. 1  
one on page 2.

May 12, 1944 Johnson coins  
group of half cents.

May 13, 1944 Green Estate (Red)  
page 1 group of  $\frac{1}{2}$  cents  
page 2 group of  $\frac{1}{2}$  cents

another  
May 13, 1944 Green Estate (red)  
page 2 group of  $\frac{1}{2}$  cents

May 15, 1944 Johnson coin  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent. (only one)

Eric



Subj: **Fwd: Judd records**  
Date: 7/11/2012 10:45:07 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time  
From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 7/10/2012 8:37:35 P.M. Central Daylight Time  
Subj: Judd records

Hi, Gerry-

Now I have the spelling of your name right! I did not receive an e-mail.

I don't remember off hand if I have a copy of such an invoice. I will look when I get back into town. I think I remember seeing one, though. Eric and I looked through the Johnson invoices from 1941-1943.

I hope you are doing well.

Mike

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:45 PM  
Subject: Re: Hospitality

Hi, Mike. It's Gerry writing a note for Eric. I sent you one a few weeks ago and did not hear back from you so thought maybe you were on vacation, working on another project, or just plain didn't get it for some reason.

Here's what we're looking for. Eric says he know he saw or has an invoice from Johnson to Dr. Judd. Probably in the 1940's and maybe with some of the invoices we went through while you were here in St. Louis. He wondered if by chance you had taken a picture of that invoice and if you did whether or not we can get a copy from you.

Looking forward to hearing from you. You can either sent your answer to Eric or me at [REDACTED]

Thanks for any help you can provide.

Gerry

In a message dated 5/19/2012 7:55:16 P.M. Central Daylight Time,  
[REDACTED] writes:

Eric,

I just wanted to thank you again for hosting me, letting me pick your brain, and for letting me review your priceless records.

Thanks also to Evelyn, Jerri and Becky for their hospitality.

I hope you and Evelyn have a wonderful time at the "shack"!

Best regards,

Mike Spurlock



Subj: **Fwd: Research on Your 1802 C-2**  
 Date: 6/10/2012 2:09:31 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time  
 From: [REDACTED]  
 To: [REDACTED]

Interesting research from Mike Spurlock ! Do you have any information about where Mickley purchased his coins ? Tett

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From: [REDACTED]  
 To: [REDACTED]  
 Sent: 6/9/2012 11:45:33 P.M. Central Daylight Time  
 Subj: Research on Your 1802 C-2

Tett,

I obtained a copy of the Woodward bid book for the 1867 Joseph J. Mickley sale. The bid book said that a Mr. Farmer purchased the coin for \$4.75. His collection was sold only two years later by Mason and Co. I am trying to acquire this catalog. These definitely appear to be the "missing links" for your 1802 C-2 collection piece. Come to find out, Mr. Farmer had a pretty decent half cent collection.

I am not sure if this coin can be traced back further. I am not sure if records of Mickley's coins purchases and sales exist.

I am also going to follow up on the gap between Farmer and Parmelee. Mr. Parmelee definitely owned the coin, but he may very well have purchased it from another collector. He very often bought entire collections, sometimes to obtain just a few coins that he wanted. He then sold the remainder of the collections as a "Parmelee Sale".

Here is the detail of the pedigree as I now have it:

**Joseph J. Mickley via Private Treaty 04/30/1867; W. Elliot Woodward; Woodward (Mickley) 10/28/1867:2087 \$4.75; XXXXXXX Farmer; Mason and Co. (Farmer) 1869:677 \$11.00; Lorin G. Parmelee; New York Coin (Parmelee) 06/25/1890:803 \$20.00; E. W. Ropes; New York Coin (Ropes)**

**12/15/1893:428 \$11.75; Peter Mougey; Elder (Mougey)  
 09/01/1910: 294 \$44.00; Allison W. Jackman; H. Chapman  
 (Jackman) 06/28/1918:866 \$51.00; Wayte Raymond;  
 Frederick C. C. Boyd (Privately Sold in 1943); Unknown;  
 James Stack; Stack's (Stack) 11/29/1989:33 \$12,100.00;  
 R.Tettenhorst**

The auction catalog description is as follows:

**2087. 1802 Scarcely touched by circulation; Very fine for this date, rare.**

One other interesting note. Joseph Mickley was very proud of his coin collection and showed it often to friends AND strangers. He should have taken advice from you and adopted a pseudo-name, stay private and have third parties buy his coins for him. Unfortunately on April 13, 1867, Mickley's home was burglarized of his foreign coins. This represented about half of Mickley's coin collection. This was just one of several times that some of Mickley's coins had been taken. Mr. Mickley viewed this as a "warning to desist from collecting any more." He sold his entire collection for \$10,000 to dealer and auctioneer, William Elliot Woodward on April 30, 1867. Immediately thereafter, he bought \$10,000 worth of U. S. Treasury 5-20 bonds that paid 6% interest (payable in gold). Mickley primarily collected books about coins until his death in 1878.

Take care and heal quickly!

Mike



Subj: **Re: Judd records**  
Date: 7/12/2012 10:16:18 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time  
From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]  
CC: [REDACTED]

Mike:

Thank you so much for checking. Eric told me yesterday that he and you looked through 1943 while you were here and asked me to check 1943. I had previously only looked at 41 and 42. I went there yesterday afternoon and found them in 1943. I was going to let you know this morning. Sorry to have caused you the extra work of checking and appreciate your help in trying to locate copies.

Gerry

In a message dated 7/11/2012 11:58:18 P.M. Central Daylight Time, [REDACTED] writes:

Hi, Eric and Gerry-

I checked my photos this evening, but I do not have any for sales to Dr. Judd. I specifically remember seeing one in the boxes from 1941-1943.

You should be able to locate it in one of those boxes when have a chance.

I hope the weather at the Vineyard is great and the ocean views are wonderful!

Take care,

Mike

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 11, 2012 9:44 AM  
**Subject:** Re: Judd records

Thanks so much. I'll let Eric know.

In a message dated 7/10/2012 8:37:35 P.M. Central Daylight Time, [REDACTED] writes:

Hi, Gerry-

Now I have the spelling of your name right! I did not receive an e-mail.

I don't remember off hand if I have a copy of such an invoice. I will look when I get back into town. I think I remember seeing one, though. Eric and I looked through the Johnson invoices from 1941-1943.

I hope you are doing well.

Mike

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:45 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Hospitality

Hi, Mike. It's Gerry writing a note for Eric. I sent you one a few weeks ago and did not hear back from you so thought maybe you were on vacation, working on another project, or just plain didn't get it for some reason.

Here's what we're looking for. Eric says he know he saw or has an invoice from Johnson to Dr. Judd. Probably in the 1940's and maybe with some of the invoices we went through while you were here in St. Louis. He wondered if by chance you had taken a picture of that invoice and if you did whether or not we can get a copy from you.

Looking forward to hearing from you. You can either sent your answer to Eric or me at [REDACTED].

Thanks for any help you can provide.

Gerry

In a message dated 5/19/2012 7:55:16 P.M. Central Daylight Time, halfcent1 [REDACTED] writes:

Eric,

I just wanted to thank you again for hosting me, letting me pick your brain, and for letting me review your priceless records.



Thanks also to Evelyn, Jerri and Becky for their hospitality.

I hope you and Evelyn have a wonderful time at the "shack"!

Best regards,

Mike Spurlock

Subj: **Information Recently Sent**  
 Date: 8/19/2012 1:39:00 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time  
 From: [REDACTED]  
 To: [REDACTED]  
 Hi, Eric-

*Write  
Mr. partner*  
 Thanks for the 1944 half cent information. Are you back in St. Louis? I am sure you enjoyed the stay in Martha's Vineyard. I KNOW the temperatures there were nice compared to ours. I was thinking specifically of you and Martha's Vineyard when our temperature hit 117 degrees one day in July. One of my junior partners vacations with his family in Martha's Vineyard each June. I was asking him what the temperature in Martha's Vineyard was in June. I told him that you and your wife vacation in your "shack" for the summer. He said he would just prefer to MOVE there permanently. Needless to say, it was a wee bit cooler than our record high. It just so happens that our little city was the hottest in the United States that day.

*Read it*  
 I enjoyed reading the article about you authored by Joel Orosz in the most recent *Coin World* (August 27, 2012 issue). How does it feel to be a "Living National Treasure". I thought it was a fitting tribute TO DATE! I know you are still doing research so I look forward to what you next publish.

I did have a few questions regarding the invoice copies you sent me.

- No*
- When a horizontal dash was placed next to an amount, does that mean the coin was returned to Mr. Johnson?
  - If this is the case, it appears that most coins that were sent out on approval were returned to Mr. Johnson. Is that a fair characterization?
- No*
- I also wanted to make sure that a date stamped over an amount meant that was the date on which funds were received for a sale.
  - I noticed on the invoice dated May 13, 1994 to T. C. Brandts the notation "1/3" next to the heading U.S. TRADE DOLLARS. I remember you telling me that there were a group of coins for which Mr. Johnson had a 2/3 interested and you had a 1/3 interest. Is that what this notation represents.
- Yes  
as stated*
- If so, which coins on this invoice were "1/3 ownership" coins?

*He  
may  
Come*  
 You still have some records that I would love to see. I would like to see if I can arrange a time to examine the ones that I need for my Col. Green research. If you would agree to let me come back, I think the best way for me to gather the info I still need would be to look at it over at your Library. That way I could set of a copy stand to photograph the pages needed for my research. Just let me know if you are amenable to another visit. I realize that it is hard on you and that you have physical limitations. My wife jokes that I just have MENTAL limitations! Especially when it come to any interest in numismatics or bibliomania! She is



also a collector so she has little room to criticize. She has several hundred Teddy Bears and Dolls. She has had various artists make unique Dolls and Teddy Bears just for her. I don't recall ever having the U. S. Mint make anything specifically for me... Of course, she reminds me that her Dolls and Bears are WAY cheaper than my coins or books.

Have you had a chance to follow the recent coin auctions? They have proven that top tier coins still are bringing strong, strong prices AND record prices. I have noticed many well-to-do folks who are buying ultra-rarities as investments and as a hedge against the volatility of other more common investments. I know of more than a few dealers who have been pooling their funds to buy important and very expensive rarities for resale. I know this has happened for decades, but the frequency has only increased by many times. I also know of investment groups who are pooling funds for the sole purpose of buying ultra-rarities. It still amazes me how many coins are breaking the \$1 million price barrier. Unfortunately, my recent monetary investments have been in places other than these fun ones. I recently just purchased \$260,000 of new equipment for my business. That would have been fun to play in numismatics with. Oh, well...a necessary evil which yields future dividends. For some reason, I have not found a way to make our factory manufacturing equipment last forever!

I recently noticed that Berkshire Hathaway had made a strong bet in a gold production company. Will a rare coin portfolio be next on Mr. Buffett's plate? I won't hold my breath on that one.

*Read  
T* I have an article in the upcoming October *Penny-Wise* magazine that addresses some of this phenomena. It also has a specific portion that mentions you and the 1913 Nickels and their recent price history and values. I know you will enjoy it.

I was recently honored with the Editor's Award for contributions to the EAC *Penny-Wise* magazine for 2011. I really enjoy research and writing and was glad to be recognized for new research into my beloved Half Cents. Half Cent collectors are somewhat of a rare breed since there are barely enough Half Cents to go around!!! I am still waiting for Bernard to gift his collection to me!!

I recently stumbled onto a possible previously unknown variety of half cent for the year 1809. Half cents for 1809 are not rare so nobody has really looked closely in the dealer junk boxes or eBay for possible new varieties. Junk boxes are usually scoured for rare Liberty Caps and Draped Busts. Based on records from Thomas Elder and an analysis of die emissions and die states, it is very likely that a "new" variety exists. I have an article for an upcoming *Penny-Wise* issue that presents my case. I just hope that I am the first to discover one! A new half cent variety has not been discovered since the mid-70's.



I thought last week's sale of the 1873CC No Arrows Dime was interesting. I know there are a handful of VERY serious buyers now, so I knew this coin would bring a record price. I thought it was interesting that Chris Karstedt invited the auction audience to be sure and congratulate Rusty Goe for his purchase. Only one problem...Rusty did NOT win the bidding! A Spectrum bidder purchased the coin for an anonymous bidder. I highly suspect that this anonymous buyer was Mr. Pogue from Dallas, Texas. He has been scooping up many ultra-rarities for a family collection. Are you familiar with him? From the inklings that I have heard from coin insiders, the value of his collection is in the hundreds of millions of dollars. That sounds like an Eliasberg-type set in the making to me.

I watched the bidding on Stack's live bidding web site. All you can see is the auctioneer, with audio, but it is still fun to watch and bid. If I cannot attend the auction, I generally will bid in this way. Believe it or not, the "unseen" live internet bidder seems to be more intimidating to floor bidders than another floor bidder. You cannot see the movements, emotions, expressions and even the tics of an internet bidder. In current auctions, I am pretty sure that 4 out of 5 lots are won by either internet pre-bidders or live internet bidders. Times definitely do change! The only thing I wish the auction houses would do is to level the playing field by having an additional camera that showed the bidding action on the floor. I am guessing that they will not do this because it could be deemed to be causing a competitive "disadvantage" for the floor bidders. We shall see... I am going to request that the three major auction houses consider this move. While at a Heritage auction, I heard more than one dealer curse at the unseen Heritage Live bidders. Pretty comical if you ask me!

Even George Kolbe and David Fanning are providing live internet bidding for their annual special auction in New York. I was able to purchase some very important properties via the live bidding. I have missed some very important pieces in their mail bidding sales (which end up being e-mail bidding sales). David Fanning does not provide feedback during the period leading up to the deadline as to where a bidder may stand on a particular lot. On the other hand, David Sklow provides his bidders with "Outbid Notices". This gives his bidders time to evaluate their bids and what they are "truly" willing to bid in order to secure a lot. This is the way the coin auction companies work their small-dollar internet bidding. I am sure that the "real-time" internet bidding provided by the big auctioneers is too expensive for Kolbe/Fanning and Sklow.

I have been "cranking away" on my Col. Green research. I have been inputting data from my Col. Green estate inventory for a couple of months. So far, I have entered the data for Half Cents, Large Cents, Half Dollars, Silver Dollars and Colonials.



I have some interesting "revelations" after crunching this data. Here are some overview conclusions so far:

- Col. Green owned an astounding number of low-grade coins. Why would he own these??? Many, many looked like they could have come out of his present day circulation.
- The Large Cents listed in the Inventory did not list as many of the high-grade and ultra-rarities that I have been led to believe were in Col. Green's collection. There were several high Condition Census level Large Cents, but not any CC #1 coins. I find it hard to believe that Col. Green did not own a single CC #1 Large Cent! Would you agree with this assessment? This leads me to SERIOUSLY question whether the Inventory that was presented to the Probate Court contained a listing of all of Col. Green's coins at the time of his death. It may very well have been the inventory of coins AFTER they were "picked over". I have heard it rumored that the entire Col. Green collection was offered to John Work Garrett, but he politely refused. I just wonder if he did buy anything? Given that F.C.C. Boyd was a noted dealer and a noted specialist in Large Cents, I sincerely wonder if he was compensated with his "first pickings" from the collection! Could I get a list of Large Cents that you and Mr. Johnson selected?
- The Large Cents included ONLY 707 coins. This number seems extremely small, unless Col. Green just did not like Large Cents. I find this very hard to swallow. The appraised value of his Large Cents was only \$1,628.
- Silver Dollars--The second restrike 1804 dollar was included in the Inventory. Conspicuously absent was any Uncirculated 1794 dollar. I was certain that he owned at least one. Most of the other ultra-rare or super-high grade dollars were listed in the collection. I also found it hard to believe that Col. Green only owned eleven 1794 dollars, but owned an amazing eighty-seven dollars including 12 uncirculated examples.
- Col. Green owned around 2,000 Silver Dollars with an appraised value of of around \$9,200.
- He owned almost 3,400 Half Dollars that were in Poor to Very Good condition. Most of these were either Liberty Seated or later date Capped Busts. Included were:

1. 83 - 1794's valued at \$371.25
2. 353 - 1795's valued at \$1,197.25
3. 22 - 1796's valued at \$1,393.00

#### 4. 20 - 1797's valued at \$1,090.00

- Half Dollars--Col. Green must have liked Half Dollars. He owned an astounding 11,000 Half Dollars valued at around \$14,500, including 2,000 uncirculated and 600 proof examples! It is obvious to me that Col. Green was an "easy pawn" on which to unload coins by dealers...

- think so*
- Colonials--Did I understand you to say that you bought all of the Colonials from the Col. Green holdings?

I have NO CLUE as to how long it is going to take me to input coin records from the Green Inventory into a database. I plan to do the non-common coin first. I have not yet decided what to do with the foreign coins, the paper money, encased postage, tokens, exnumia, etc. I will eventually input everything for analysis.

*Yes Johnson not both quite*

I am still astounded at the breadth of Col. Green's foreign holdings. They literally dwarf his U. S. and Colonial holdings! Did you and Mr. Johnson buy any of the foreign material? His holdings of foreign gold may have been the best. I have not seen much of any ancient coinage.

The sheer number of the bank notes was amazing. I have not even touched on these yet, or the store card, encased postage, etc.

When I get more denominations, types and issues input, I will give you a recap. As of now, I think it would be fair to say that Col. Green did not have a specific collecting plan. He obviously owned some fantastic rarities, but he owned a large, large number of examples that we could only fairly refer to as dogs. You would not believe the number of silver and gold coins that were separately listed as having been cleaned or polished. This even includes coins like a 1794 silver dollar! Personally, I would not care if my Fine 12 1794 dollar had been cleaned in 1850! I am sure that it would still be worth tens of thousands of dollars today!

I have the start to several chapters for a book on the Numismatic Collection of Col. Green. One or more of the chapters is going to cover just the ultra-rarities owned by Col. Green. One of the big chapters will be one which debunks the MANY myths of the Col. Green collection. This one should be VERY interesting to some who claim to "know all" regarding this collection.

One of the chapters will actually be a recapitulation of the entire collection. Just the summary of the holdings with current market values will probably be astounding. I am not sure that I have a grip on what the total market value for the whole collection will total. I have not even broached the valuing of the foreign holdings or the currency. I don't even have an inkling of the value of his U.S.



golf. All I know is that it will be substantial.

I will be sure to keep you up to date as I make progress on this project.

I am also planning on trying to find out if the original estate files for the Green estate still exist. I am not holding high hopes. I am pretty sure that it has now been nearly 70 years since the estate was closed out... I will let you know. First, I have to find out who the successor to the First National Bank of Boston is. That might even take a while!

I look forward to hearing from you. I think this project should bring some fun and enjoyment to both of us.

I apologize for such a LONG e-mail, but I am like you: I really love my hobby!

Best regards,

Mike Spurlock

Subj: **Re: Col. Green**  
Date: 8/20/2012 1:39:08 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time  
From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]

Hi Mike:

I Emailed you this morning about the Green 1794 dollar situation as I know it. Now you have new evidence. The first time I ever saw any was that I saw two uncirculated 1794 dollars and a bunch of 1794 uncirculated cents was when Baldwins showed them to me when I was in London long ago and helped them prepare for an auction..They had been sent to England promptly after their dating. Americans bought them at the auction sale.

I presume you have considered that your new find could have been something else uncirculated. .  
Eric

In a message dated 8/19/2012 10:19:38 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time,  
[REDACTED] writes:

Hi, Eric-

I need to make a correction on information I sent you concerning 1794 Silver Dollars. I found the information for Col. Green's best Flowing Hair Dollars in the middle of a gold coin page. I turns out that he actually owned 2 uncirculated 1794 dollars. Everyone should own a roll or two!

Regards,

Mike



Subj: **1794 dollar mystery**  
Date: 8/21/2012 11:19:47 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time  
From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]

Mike::

While half asleep last night I began to try to solve your current Green enigma about the 1794 uncirculated pair of US dollars. It occurred to me that because the listing in your wonderful summary included those in a category of US gold coins and other items unrelated to dollars that dollars could have been an error in transcription. I began to speculate how it could have happened. The listing from which it was transcribed might have had a "d" after the 1794 which was intended to be "dime" and not "dollar". From memory there were some uncirculated 1794 dimes (dismes). I have that dime data in a list prepared by Johnson for the Green group we received.. Perhaps you can see what your list shows as to other 1794 dimes.

Ten cents a dance may be applicable.

Eric.

Subj: **Re: 1794 dollar mystery**  
Date: 8/24/2012 12:20:13 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time  
From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]  
Hi, Eric-

I went through the Col. Green inventory specifically pulling out Disme and Dime data.

Col. Green owned two tooled 1792 Dismes and a number of first year of issue 1796 Dimes. There were no pattern or regular strike 1794 Dimes.

He owned three 1792 Half Dismes as follows: 1-Good, 2-Fine and 1-Extremely Fine.

He owned a good number of 1794 Half Dimes as follows:

Valentine-1: 1-Very Good, 4-Very Fine, 7-Extremely Fine and 3-Uncirculated.

Valentine-2: 1-Fine, 2-Extremely Fine, and 1-Uncirculated.

Valentine-3: 1-Very Fine, 2-Extremely Fine.

Valentine-4: 1-Extremely Fine and 1-Uncirculated.

Unclassified: 1-Good, 1-Very Fine and 1-Extremely Fine.

Unclassified: 1-Very Good (Polished).

I hope this information answers you questions. I would love to see Mr. Johnson's listing of Green dimes and half dimes.

I will try to contact you soon,

Mike

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, August 21, 2012 10:19 AM  
Subject: 1794 dollar mystery

Mike::

While half asleep last night I began to try to solve your current Green enigma about the 1794 uncirculated pair of US dollars. It occurred to me that because the listing in your wonderful summary included those in a category of US gold coins and other items unrelated to dollars that dollars could have been an error



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Ten cents a dance may be applicable.

Eric.